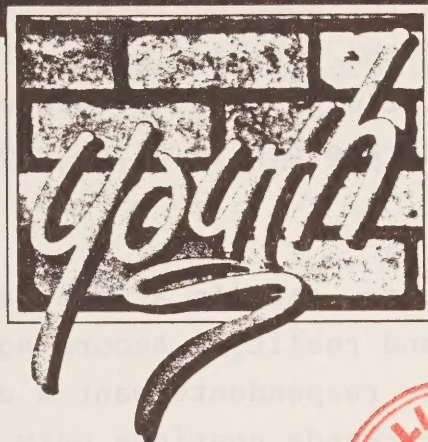
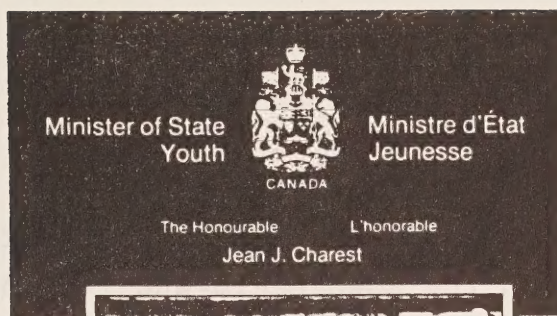


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**CANADA'S YOUTH: READY FOR TODAY**



OTTAWA -- The majority of young Canadians between the ages of 15 and 24 say they are very optimistic about their future, says a survey of youth.

Five out of 10 of these young people want jobs that pay well and 80 per cent want to find interesting work that gives them a feeling of accomplishment. A majority believe that a friendly workplace and a chance for promotion are more important than job security.

These are some of the many varied findings of a recent cross-country survey of 2,100 young people, conducted by the Canadian Youth Foundation and released today in a 55-page report entitled Canada's Youth: Ready for Today.

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In releasing the report the Honourable Jean J. Charest, Minister of State for Youth, said: "Youth between the ages of 15 and 24 represent 17 per cent of the Canadian population, so their idealism and optimism seem to bode well for Canada's future. The work ethic is alive and well among young people."

However, there's a wide gap between youthful expectations and reality. According to the report, 50 per cent of the respondents want a university education, but if current trends continue only a minority will realize this goal.

"The contrast between these findings and the realities youth will face should motivate all labour market players to commit themselves to the needs of young people," Minister Charest added.

A lingering source of concern is the fact that more than half of Canada's students don't believe the traditional school system prepares them properly for the world of work, according to the survey.

This report, funded by the Canadian Jobs Strategy Innovations program, is the work of the Canadian Youth Foundation. The views and opinions expressed in this report are those of the young people of Canada. The perspective on the observations and the implications are the views of the Canadian Youth Foundation and the authors of the report.



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## BACKGROUNDER

### CANADA'S YOUTH: READY FOR TODAY

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A survey of young people's attitudes and opinions by the Canadian Youth Foundation shows that more than three quarters of youth in Canada believe that success in what they do is "very important".

That is one of the findings published in a report, entitled "Canada's Youth: Ready for Today," which is based on more than 2,100 interviews with young people aged 15 to 24 years old inclusive, conducted between October 26 and December 22, 1987.

The cross-country survey was commissioned by Minister of State for Youth Jean Charest, through a contribution from the Canadian Jobs Strategy's Innovations Program.

Most young people describe themselves in highly positive terms -- 42 per cent believe they possess above average intelligence -- while only 10 per cent feel they are "a failure." Some 70 per cent of youth live with their parents, the majority of whom are happy with this arrangement and report that they have no reason to leave. Fewer than 10 per cent of youth "would like to leave as soon as possible."



Today's youth value education irrespective of gender, age or community size. The majority of youth reported that education was "very important". Two thirds of them had met with school guidance counsellors. Although fewer than 10 per cent of the Canadian population have earned a university degree, 50 per cent of young people surveyed expect to graduate from university.

More than 80 per cent of young people want to find "work that is interesting" and 75 per cent want "work that gives a feeling of accomplishment." At the time the survey was conducted, more than half of those surveyed were working part-time or full-time.

When youth think of their future their priorities are clear. Eighty-two per cent of the respondents stated that having a good marriage and family life is "very important"; 74 per cent reported that "being successful in my line of work is very important". At the other end of the scale, 13 per cent felt this way about "working to correct social and economic inequalities", and 6 per cent viewed being a leader in their community as "very important."

The Canadian Youth Foundation is an independent, non-profit, research and policy analysis institute, sponsored by the Canadian Council on Children and Youth. It is staffed by a nationally representative team of interns aged 18 to 24. The Foundation, through its research and its publications, aims to enrich discussion of public policy with a youth perspective.

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The analysis contained in the report reflects this perspective and is not necessarily the view of the government.

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